



Extended Employment Services Budget Increase Vocational Rehabilitation Funding Request

ISSUE: The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) provides long term employment supports to individuals with disabilities in Idaho through the *Extended Employment Program*. These are services that are provided by private organizations after the person is no longer receiving VR services. They include:

- work or work-like services provided in segregated settings (sheltered workshops),
- work in groups or “enclaves” away from the facility; these people are employed by the provider, not the employer where they work, and
- supported work, integrated in the community where the person works for the employer and receives supports such as job coaching to help learn and accomplish the job.

In FY 2006, 1,665 people were served by this program at an average cost of \$4,000/person. There are currently 160 people on the waiting list for these services. DVR has requested an increase in their budget of \$500,000 in state funding to serve the people on the waiting list. *The Governor has not recommended funding this request.*

COUNCIL POSITION: The Council’s position on employment services is that they should:

- ✓ be provided in integrated community settings,
- ✓ meet federal minimum wage requirements, and
- ✓ allow for individual choice and the possibility of achieving economic self-sufficiency.

In line with this position, the Council recommends that the Legislature support the Vocational Rehabilitation request for additional funds for the Extended Employment Program

BUT ONLY

if the funds are used to provide supports for people to work for employers in their community, and not in segregated settings.

For more information, contact the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities, 208-334-2178 or 1-800-544-2433.

Extended Employment Services Budget Increase

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Funding Request

**Vocational
Rehabilitation
request**



\$500,000 – to provide services for people on the waiting list for Extended Employment Services (in both community employment and sheltered workshops)

\$76,500 – state and federal funds to pay for a staff person to write PASS plans to help people go to work.

\$30,000 – increase the funding for outreach services to people with epilepsy (provided to Epilepsy Foundation)

**Recommendation by
Governor**



**No additional funds
recommended by
Governor**

**Not recommended
by Governor**

**Not recommended
by Governor**



**DD Council
position**



\$500,000 – use these funds to provide support for people to work for employers in the community and not in segregated settings (sheltered workshops)

\$76,500 – state and federal funds to pay for a staff person to write PASS plans to help people go to work (no official position by Council on these funds but support for PASS plan development)

\$30,000 – increase the funding for outreach services to people with epilepsy (provided to Epilepsy Foundation)